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Wagon Encampment brings smells, sights and sounds of the old west back to life.

Baker City, Oregon- The annual Labor Day Weekend Pioneer Wagon Encampment September 1, 2, 3, 2007 at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will recreate the unique sights, and smells, of the 1850s at Flagstaff Hill just outside Baker City.

On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm costumed interpreters will recreate a “nooning” or lunch time rest stop of Oregon Trail pioneers. Dutch oven cooking demonstrations will perfume the air with the smoky smell of buffalo stew and dried fruit cobbler. Samples are available for visitors who want to step back in time a bit and have a prairie style taste test.

Sheryl Curtis will have her team of oxen on hand to demonstrate how these gentle giants worked with pioneers to move wagons and goods 2000 miles on rough roads from the midwest to the west coast over 150 years ago. Musicians will be playing the fiddle and dance tunes familiar to pioneer ancestors, and demonstrations of toys and crafts will complete the look and feel of a wagon train pulled into a circle for a mid day rest stop.

Ray Egan will present his first person interpretive programs on Oregon Trail preservationist and pioneer Ezra Meeker, and 1853 pioneer Willis Boatman at 11:00 and 2:00 each day in the Leo Adler Theater inside the Interpretive Center. As always, hiking trails and exhibits will be open, including a special exhibit of contemporary quilts on nature themes in the Flagstaff Gallery.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the Bureau of Land Management, is located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$5. Children and seniors are \$3.50. Federal passes are accepted. Visit oregontrail.blm.gov for more information about the Center, and to see a feature story on oxen, or call 541-523-1843 for updates on programs and events.

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